Pending Audit Objections in Super Bazar

5803. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of audit objections/CAG observations pending in Super Bazar;

(b) what measures have been taken to reply to the observations/objections, department-wise;

(c) whether Super Bazar has not been replying to audit findings and to the large number of irregularities committed by various employees during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the grants released for sales/profit output by Government during the said period were not utilised fully; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) None, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) The Compliance report in respect of audit findings is placed before the Managing Committee as well as in the Annual General Body meeting of Super Bazar and appropriate action is taken.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Grant received by Super Bazar from the Govt. is fully utilized.

(f) Does not arise.

Administration of District Consumer Courts

5804. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that district consumer courts are not being administrated properly;

(b) whether backlog of cases has made district consumer courts non-functional; and

(c) steps proposed to streamline district consumer courts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) At present, 457 District Fora are functioning in the country under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. As per information available, most of them are functioning properly. The administrative control of these fore lies with the State Governments. However, in certain matters like calling for periodical returns regarding institution, disposal, pendancy of cases, issuance of instructions regarding adoption of uniform procedures in District Fora, etc., the administrative control lies with the State Commission set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in that State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some of the State Government had requested to provide financial assistance to strengthen and streamline the District Fora. On the initiative taken by Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, the Planning Commission has agreed to give one time assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer courts. This assistance will be over and above their Annual Plan Budget and will be released in four instalments. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 also provides for setting up of additional District Forum in a district depending upon the work load. The responsibility of setting up of additional District Forum lies with the State Governments.